

## Subpart A—General

### § 904.1 Purpose and scope.

(a) This part sets forth the procedures governing NOAA's administrative proceedings for assessment of civil penalties, suspension, revocation, modification, or denial of permits, issuance and use of written warnings, and release or forfeiture of seized property.

(b) This subpart defines terms appearing in the part and sets forth rules for the filing and service of documents in administrative proceedings covered by this part.

(c) The following statutes authorize NOAA to assess civil penalties, impose permit sanctions, issue written warnings, and/or seize and forfeit property in response to violations of those statutes:

- (1) Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 2401–2412;
- (2) Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention Act of 1984, 16 U.S.C. 2431–2444;
- (3) Atlantic Salmon Convention Act of 1982, 16 U.S.C. 3601–3608;
- (4) Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 1851 note;
- (5) Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975, 16 U.S.C. 971–971i;
- (6) Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act, 30 U.S.C. 1401 *et seq.*;
- (7) Eastern Pacific Tuna Licensing Act of 1984, 16 U.S.C. 972–972h;
- (8) Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. 1531–1543;
- (9) Fur Seal Act Amendments of 1983, 16 U.S.C. 1151–1175;
- (10) Lacey Act Amendments of 1981, 16 U.S.C. 3371–3378;
- (11) Land Remote-Sensing Commercialization Act of 1981, 15 U.S.C. 4201 *et seq.*;
- (12) Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801–1882;
- (13) Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, 16 U.S.C. 1361–1407;
- (14) Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, 16 U.S.C. 1431–1439;
- (15) Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982, 16 U.S.C. 773–773k;
- (16) North Pacific Fisheries Act of 1954, 16 U.S.C. 1021–1032;
- (17) Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9101 *et seq.*;

(18) Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985, 16 U.S.C. 3631–3644;

(19) Sponge Act, 16 U.S.C. 781 *et seq.*;

(20) Tuna Conventions Act of 1950, 16 U.S.C. 951–961; and

(21) Whaling Convention Act of 1949, 16 U.S.C. 916–916l.

The procedures set forth in this part are intended to apply to administrative proceedings under these and later-enacted statutes administered by NOAA.

### § 904.2 Definitions.

Unless the context otherwise requires, or as otherwise noted, terms in this part have the meanings prescribed in the applicable statute or regulation. In addition, the following definitions apply:

*Administrator* means the Administrator of NOAA or a designee.

*Agency* means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

*Applicable statute* means a statute cited in § 904.1(c), and any regulations issued by NOAA to implement it.

*Applicant* means any person who applies or is expected to apply for a permit.

*Citation* means a written warning (see section 311(c) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1861(c), and section 11(c) of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982, 16 U.S.C. 773i(c)).

*Decision* means an initial or final decision of the Judge.

*Ex parte communication* means an oral or written communication not on the public record with respect to which reasonable prior notice to all parties is not given, but does not include inquiries regarding procedures, scheduling, and status.

*Final administrative decision* means an order or decision of NOAA assessing a civil penalty or permit sanction which is not subject to further Agency review under this part, and which is subject to collection proceedings or judicial review in an appropriate Federal district court as authorized by law.

*Forfeiture* includes, but is not limited to, surrender or relinquishment of any claim to an item by written agreement, or otherwise; or extinguishment of any claim to, and transfer of title to an item to the Government by court order